



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: November 10, 2002

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department News Release:

SENIOR COUPLE DISPLACED, BUT SAFE, AFTER MOBILE HOME FIRE

Date/Time of Incident: Sunday, November 10, 2002, 10:07 a.m.

Type of Emergency: Structure Fire

Location: 19 Calle Susanna Way (Oaks Mobile Estates)

Incident Number: 122929

Elk Grove, CA – An elderly Elk Grove couple find themselves displaced today after a fire ignited their mobile home. The home and its contents sustained significant fire and smoke damage, but the couple is safe thanks to the efforts of good Samaritans and Elk Grove CSD Fire Department personnel.

Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) fire crews were dispatched at 10:07 a.m. this morning after multiple calls were received from the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS 9-1-1 dispatch center reporting visible flames coming from the front of a mobile home. Fire Department units arrived on scene in less than four minutes and reported a “working fire” with two people still inside.

Battalion Chief John Michelini was the first responder on scene. Upon his arrival, Chief Michelini made contact with two good Samaritans. One had grabbed a garden hose and was attempting to extinguish the fire. The other had attempted to enter the home to help the couple. Thick smoke and heat prevented a rescue. Rich Viano-Nitschke directed Chief Michelini to a side door where he entered the home and escorted the couple to safety. Both occupants were conscious and able to exit the structure under their own power with limited assistance. Both were checked at the scene by paramedics, but refused further treatment.

With two confirmed rescues, crews turned their attention to fire attack. The blaze was extinguished by 10:18 a.m. The home sustained significant structural damage to the front entry and living spaces. Fire investigators have concluded that the fire was accidental and started on the outside of the home. The cause of the fire remains undetermined. Damage is estimated at \$25,000 for structure and contents.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), adults age 65 or older are twice as likely to be killed or injured in a fire compared to the population at large. Decreased mobility, sight and hearing may limit people in this age group to take the quick action necessary to escape during a fire emergency. The Elk Grove CSD Fire Department joins the NFPA and the United States Fire Administration in reminding older adults to install and maintain smoke alarms and to plan and practice home fire escape routes with two ways out of every room. Seniors are encouraged to contact friends, neighbors, caregivers, or their local fire department if they need assistance with putting these or other safety precautions in place.

Incident Commander: Battalion Chief John Michelini

Number of Engines: 2

Number of Trucks: 1

Medic Units: 1

Number of Firefighters: 13

Number of Chief Officers: 1

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**Contact: John Micheline
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